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and

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The New Absentee Regulations

THE State Board of Elections has acted wisely in prescribing regulations to prevent a recurrence in November's election of abuses of the absentee ballot law which in the past have caused many unnecessary election rows and brought a measure of disrepute on the state's election system.

How effective the new regulations will prove remains to be seen, and will depend to a large degree on the honesty of election officials. Anyone who has studied the new provisions, however, cannot help feel that on their face they are sincerely motivated and well designed. Henceforth a written application must be signed by a voter before obtaining an absentee and local election officials are required to keep a record of all absentee ballots issued. In voting an absentee the voter is required not only to attach his signature to a properly qualified absentee certificate, but also to sign his or her name on the ballot itself. Thus, a method is provided for keeping a complete check on the voting of absentee ballots, and should a dispute arise it can be justly settled. A ballot may be challenged and, if found irregular, cancelled. Furthermore, election officials will be enabled to trace a bogus vote to its origin and place responsibility for its slipping through the election machinery.

It is sincerely to be hoped that these safeguards will achieve their purpose; but if they fail, there should be no excuse for continuation of the system. The absentee ballot is fine in theory, but the theory does not justify its continued use unless it can be made practically operative.

Hooray for the Joint Campaign

THE candidates for office in Macon county have decided to fight it out in the open. The Democrats have thrown down the gauntlet and the Republicans, we are informed, have accepted the challenge. Now in a few days the Democratic nominees and the Republican dittos will appear in public debate in various sections of the county. All the voters will have an opportunity to hear both sides of every political question, to say nothing of a lot of timeworn jokes and anecdotes.

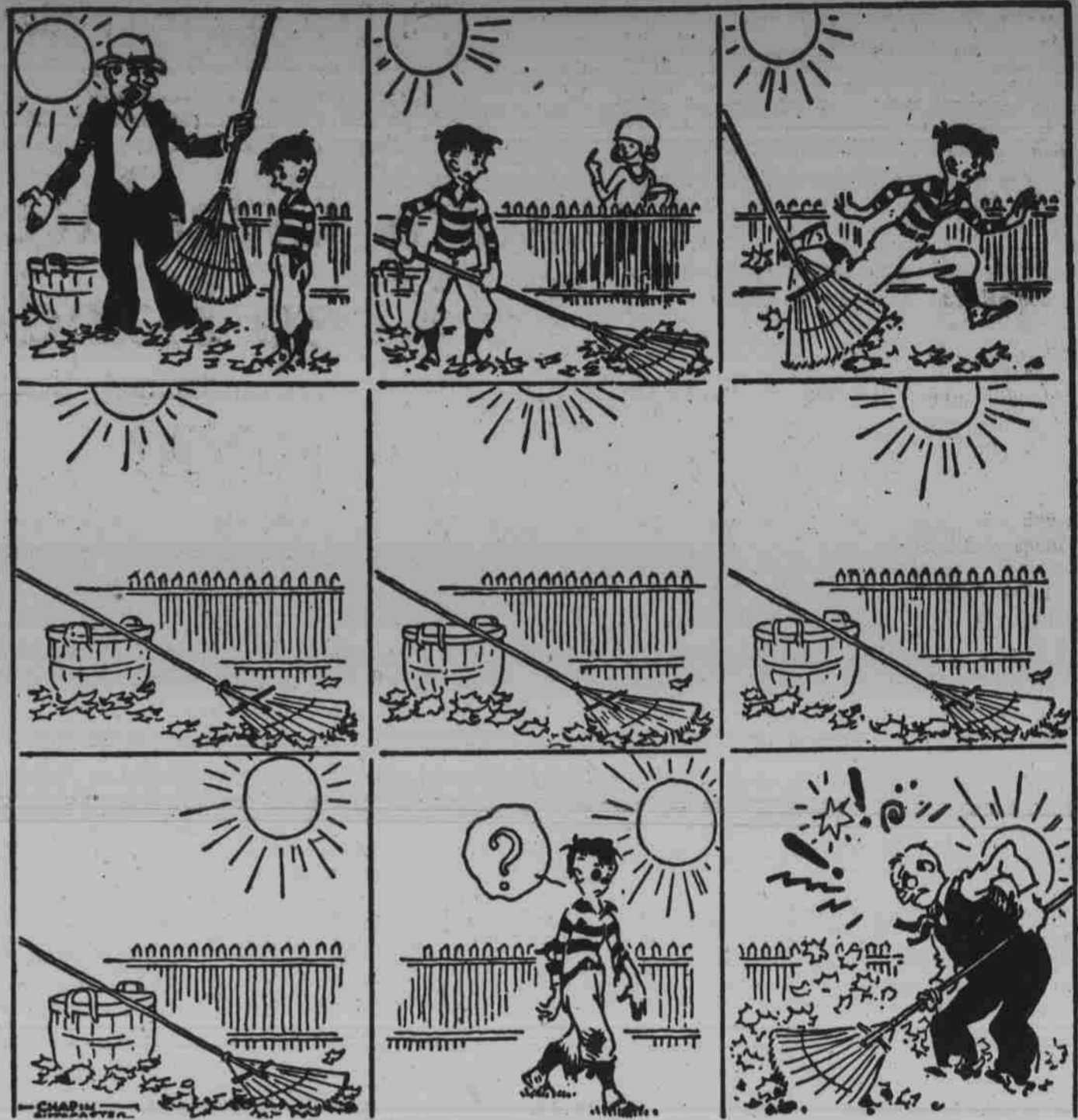
As the world series is over and there is nothing else to detract the attention of the public, the boys ought to draw pretty good crowds. And, we believe, they will put on a good show. We pay a lot of money for elections, so we might as well get all the entertainment we can out of the hustings. We doubt if anybody will prove anything other than the strength of one's lungs, but nevertheless the joint campaign should prove beneficial. Folks will have an opportunity to get better acquainted with the various candidates. Then, too, some of them might be pinned down on a few important points upon which the public would like to know their attitudes. But most important of all, there will likely be far less hitting below the belt when the fighting is done in the public view.

The Better Housing Program

IT IS NOT necessary to make a detailed, statistical survey to determine that Macon County has its full share of homes, business buildings and farm structures badly in need of repairs and modernization. It is all too obvious to a casual observer. The reason for this state of affairs is very evident. Folks just haven't had the money to make necessary repairs and improvements and, furthermore, in the past few years there has been no way to finance such work, even though one's credit might be rated A-1.

Now, through the Federal Housing Act, means have been provided for extending credit to worthy individuals whose property needs repairing or justifies remodeling. Uncle Sam stands ready

A Silent Autumn Movie ——— by A. B. Chapin



to help the community that is willing to help itself and do its part in combating the depression bogey by putting men back to work and dollars back into circulation.

If the people of Macon County individually and collectively, will apply both their brain and their brawn to the Better Housing Program, they can make their homes and their business houses better places in which to live and work, and their county a community in which they can take greater pride. Better homes mean healthier, better children, and better communities mean finer, better citizens.

Of course, credit is not offered heedless in this Better Housing Program. It would be foolish to allow a man already heavily burdened with debt to take on an additional load, to assume obligations for which there was no hope of repayment. Before one can borrow it must be ascertained that his taxes are paid, that his mortgage is in good standing, that he is a good moral risk and that he has an income sufficient to warrant the amount of his loan. These provisions preclude loans to a number of property owners, but there are many others who are in position to qualify. If those so situated will take advantage of their opportunity, we do not believe they will ever regret it. Money spent wisely on necessary repairs, even though it be borrowed money, will prove an economy in the long run. And money lent wisely for such a good cause will yield other profits in addition to interest. That is why Uncle Sam has put his shoulder to this wheel.

THROUGH CAPITAL KEYHOLES
BY BESS HINTON SILVER

EXPANDING—
Raleigh politicians see in Congressman R. L. Doughton's decision to go afield outside his own district to make campaign speeches this fall further indication of his desire to occupy the red leather chair in the southwest office of the State Capitol after Governor Ehringhaus vacates it. Mr. Doughton has not made a habit of campaigning outside his own playing field in the past. Some of the dopers-out think he wants to become personally acquainted with more of the natives in preparation for his primary campaign in 1936.

JUICY PLUM—
The grapevine reports here that Barber Towler, of Raleigh, has notified Chas. H. Robertson that he will resign his post with the Internal Revenue Department, of which Mr. Robertson is head man in North Carolina. Towler was one of the many employees of the office who were forced to move from Raleigh to Greensboro when the Fourth District's new Congressman Harold D. Cooley was unable to prevent removal of the office to national committeeman C. L. Shuping's home town. Mr. Towler's resignation will leave a \$3,600 a year job open for some promising Democrat.

TIT-FOR-TAT—
The General Assembly has been annexing \$1,000,000 each year from

taxes paid by people who use automobiles and trucks for general State expenditures. Now along comes Uncle Sam and says if you divert your highway funds we will penalize you thirty per cent of your federal aid road money. North Carolina is to get about \$3,000,000 per year in federal aid money during the next biennium and if the diversion is continued the State will lose a million bucks through penalties each year. Which means a loss of \$2,000,000 in highway construction that can be obtained if the one million iron men taken from motorists are used on roads and your Uncle Sammy comes across with the full allocation for this State.

GOOD STORY—
Former Governor O. Max Gardner tells this one about Death Row at State's Prison in Raleigh. He said he received a note from a doomed Negro reading: "Dear Governor.—I understand I am to be electrocuted Friday and here it is Tuesday—yours very truly." He did not disclose the man's name but said he granted the prisoner a thirty-day reprieve after receiving the pathetic note. Governor Gardner was just that way.

ABSENTEE VOTING—
The State Board of Elections got an eyeful in recent investigations of irregular absentee voting in the June primaries and now plans to launch a campaign to cleanse the system. The next session of the Legislature is sure to witness strenuous effort to repeal the absentee ballot law and it is not at all certain that the movement will fail, especially as the law applies to primaries. The 1933 session raised

a lot of dust in its war on absentee voting but failed to get a State-wide repealer approved, although many counties were exempted upon insistence of their Senators and Representatives.

LIVELY SCRAP—
Senators Paul Grady, of Johnson, and Carl L. Bailey, of Washington Counties, are staging intensive campaigns for the post of President Pro Tem of the 1935 Senate with few persons drifting into the Capital City willing to make any predictions on the winner. Both men were popular in the 1933 session and Capitol Knoll considers either one of them excellent material for assistant to Lieutenant Governor A. H. (Sandy) Graham in presiding over the Upper House. Senator Grady, as you remember, has announced his intention of running for Lieutenant Governor two years hence.

HONORABLE MENTION—
Thad Eure, of Hertford County, principal clerk of the last session and an announced candidate for the post next January, has been mentioned for more high State positions than any other man since Albermarle gave the State John C. B. Ehringhaus as Governor—but mentioned is about all. Mr. Eure has an inconspicuous post with the escheates department of the University at Chapel Hill but almost every time a prominent and lucrative State position is to be filled, up pops the name of Thad Eure. Mr. Eure finds it all slightly embarrassing to say the least.

JOB WAITING—
An attache of the Federal Re-employment Office at Raleigh reports that he has a \$1.10 an hour job for a skilled carpenter that is almost always begging for a man to fill it. Plenty of carpenters are available but they can't produce the kind of "trim" work needed on the job or are too old and too slow for the contractor's close bid. The reemployment department finds it difficult to secure fast "trim" carpenters for contractors on PWA projects.

SPEAKER—
While most ear-to-the-ground politicians deny they can find any trace of partiality on the part of Governor Ehringhaus in the race for Speaker of the next House session now being run by Robert Grady Johnson, of Pender, Laurie McEachern, of Hoke, and W. L. Lumpkin, of Franklin, other finger-in-the-pie boys testify they can sense a nod of approval in the direction of Johnson. If the Governor is pulling any strings for the next Speakership, they are invisible ones.